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Message Text

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20
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CPR-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 /058 W
---------- 065715
R 052041Z JUN 75
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5410

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 4578

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, PE
SUBJECT: GOP DENIES PERMIT FOR MEMORIAL DAY SERVICES

1. FOR FIRST TIME IN 17 YEARS, THIS YEAR MINISTRY OF INTERIOR REFUSED THE AMERICAN LEGION PERMISSION TO HOLD MEMORIAL DAY SERVICES AT THE BRITISH CEMETERY, SCHEDULED FOR MAY 30. THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR STATED IN WRITING THAT THE CEREMONY WAS PROHIBITED BY (AN UNSPECIFIED) LAW.

2. EMBASSY IS MYSTIFIED BY THIS GOP ACTION. IT MAY BE THAT PERUVIAN LAWS PROHIBIT THE FLYING OF THE PERUVIAN FLAG (IT WOULD HAVE BEEN SIDE BY SIDE WITH OURS) OR PLAYING OF THE NATIONAL ANTHEM AT CEREMONIES SUCH AS THE MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE. ONE SOURCE CLAIMS THAT PRESIDENT VELASCO HIMSELF BANNED THE COM-MEMORATION. VELASCO IS OF COURSE PERFECTLY CAPABLE OF SUCH PETTY ANTI-AMERICANISM. THE RECENT EXPROPRIATION OF GULF OIL, WHICH HAD NOT VIOLATED ANY PERUVIAN LAW, HAS ALSO BEEN ASCRIBED TO VELASCO'S SPITE AGAINST AMERICANS.

3. SIGHT SHOULD NOT BE LOST, HOWEVER, OF CORDIALITY THAT HAS MARKED OUR RECENT DEALINGS WITH PRIME MINISTER MORALES BERMUDEZ AND AIR MINISTER GILARDI. FURTHERMORE, ARMY ATTACHE IS RECEIVING A WARM RESPONSE FROM
PERUVIAN ARMY OFFICERS TO HIS JUNE 7 RECEPTION MARKING 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF OUR ARMY. PRIME MINISTER MORALES BERMUDEZ AND
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MANY RANKING GENERALS HAVE PROMISED TO ATTEND.

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4. SOMEONE FROM AMERICAN COMMUNITY HAS INFORMED UNITED PRESS OF CANCELLATION. IN CONVERSATION WITH UPI CORRESPONDENT, EMBOFF CONTRASTED MEMORIAL DAY CANCELLATION TO EXPECTED ATTENDANCE AT ARMY BICENTENNIAL.
DEAN

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